

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 15, No. 1

January-February, 1946

FROM COAST TO CREST

A lecture, by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., with the tang of the Gulf and the Glory of the Rockies is the all-color film, "From Coast to Crest", combining some of the most skillful bird and scenic photography ever augmented, with a touch of flower, mammal and insect material for variety. On the coast of Texas some of the sanctuaries of the National Audubon Society are located, and there the roseate spoonbill, egrets, black skimmers, oyster catchers and many other rare birds enjoy a protected life in natural surroundings. After a visit here Mr. Sprunt's personally conducted screen tour will journey inland to the land of the Navajo Indians in Arizona, a country of dense desert flowers with snow-capped mountains in the background. From there the tour goes to the Grand Canyon, filmed in all its grandeur, showing also, Monument Valley, its joshua trees and sandstones. Then on to the Colorado River in Utah where erosian remnants form statuesque columns and natural bridges, a homesite for the thistle, bumble bee and the red penstemon, making stop-overs at Colorado's famous Mesa Verde with its cliff palaces, Wyoming's Grand Tetons and then—journey's end at Yellowstone Park to meet the moose, grizzly and black bears and see the yarrow in bloom, fishermen lining up on famous Fishing Bridge, the mud geysers boiling and bubbling, Canyon Village, dusk at Inspiration Point, an osprey winging over Yellowstone Falls, Artist Point and Riverside Geyser.

Mr. Sprunt, Southern representative of the National Audubon Society, is a forceful and entertaining speaker, so don't fail to take in this tour, starting from Soldan High Auditorium at 8:15 p. m. Friday, February 1st.



ALEXANDER SPRUNT, Jr.

WILDLIFE VAUDEVILLE

On November 28th Mr. Charles M. Rice introduced Laurel Reynolds to a capacity audience at Soldan High and her lecture, "Fun with Birds", proved to be a delightful surprise. As the story unfolded her timely bits of dry humor seasoning made the unusually clear action pictures doubly interesting as the birds passed in review on the screen. When Timmie the baby robin broke through its egg case and adopted the entire Reynolds family until it reached the 'teenage stage for robins, every one who loves a robin envied her. When the solemn looking owlet was crowned with a bright red ribbon bow that gave an artistic touch of color to its fluffy white costume, it didn't give a hoot for the decorative adornment, and its staring dead-pan face brought applause and laughter. When the nervous little phalaropes put on a burlesque imitation of last-minute Christmas shoppers rushing around in circles—and getting nowhere, they "brought down the house". These and many other bird entertainers sent everybody home smiling.

COMING EVENTS

March 27th is the date for the sixth of this season's Audubon Screen Tour series, and **Alfred M. Bailey** of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, now an old and welcome friend, will return for his seventh consecutive year. The theme of his lecture this time will be "THE LAND OF THE LONGHORNS".

LEST YOU FORGET

Your membership card has a list of all lecture dates printed on the back, so it might be well to keep this handy reminder in a convenient place for reference.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN
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TENANTS COME AND GO

On January 3rd Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, Jr., introduced to a waiting audience by Charles Schwartz, lectured at Soldan High Auditorium on "Wilderness Mischief", using as his text a mythical man who came into the Wilderness, selected a homesite, the wilderness supplying materials to build his house, and food to sustain life until he died of old age. The deserted house remained, but rodent tenants and other creatures moved in, to be succeeded by later wildlife tenants. Insects used and abused the place, the walls were weakened, fell in, and in the course of time crumbled and became a part of the forest floor. The man-made home disappeared, but wildlife in the wilderness remained.

A modern man now goes to the wilderness, armed with spy glass to pry into the private affairs of birds and other wild creatures, and a camera to gather realistic natural color moving pictures to use as visual evidence for verifying the tales he tells of how they live, what they feed on and how they feed their families. His name is Olin Pettingill, and some of his victims, projected on the screen are—the bullfrog, redwing, dragon fly, bittern, snake, hawk, the sedate ovenbird, the colorful bobolink, killdeer, puff-cheeked chipmunk, turtle, fawn, tree frog with coat of changeable colors, raccoon that followed Mary until curiosity led him astray and into trouble, the indifferent porcupine and the playful bear cub whose fondness for sumac got him too far out on a limb to go back.

BIRDS NEAR HOME

If one had to be a scientist to enjoy watching the birds then I would long ago have been disqualified. The pleasure we get from the birds is primarily esthetic, yet it does have a decided practical value and now and then a mildly scientific one. There is no doubt that our feeders and the dense cover across our hill at Possum Trot and down along the creek make it possible for many song birds to winter here, while any additional scrap of knowledge about any species adds that much to the sum total. It is a matter of no great moment that our whip-poor-will was the first reported in this section of Missouri last year, yet George Moore set the fact down in The Bluebird and a date was established. Our snow bunting of two seasons ago is not too scarce, yet it brought a friendly letter from Earl Comfort, away over in Fort Myers, Virginia. Our duck hawks last winter were enough of a rarity so that a request came to collect them for the University, but luckily, they had pulled out! Each year our fox sparrows have arrived in late February, a good early date for the species, while we've had no reports of anyone harboring a pair of Carolina wrens throughout the cold weather, a distinction that we're proud of!

At bird-watching in the spring I'm very bad. My attention is constantly being distracted by a patch of Dutchman's Breeches peeping up through the leaves, or by noting that this area of woodland has been fire-scarred and will furnish little forage for the song birds during the season that's ahead. Or more happily, I lose track of the shy parula warbler slipping through the trees, while noting that the black-hawks are blooming profusely or that our many native legumes are getting off to a good start on the forest floor, to furnish autumn feed. But then when we come home, if we're willing to sit quietly on the hillside or terrace with the field glasses, we can see perhaps twenty pairs of birds of more than a dozen different species hard at work building nests or carrying on their courtship or feeding their young. That, plus the winter feeding, is the kind of bird-watching we like best.

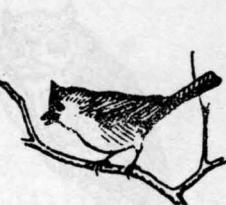
Leonard Hall

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

Seed from planes above is manna from heaven to winter birds in distress when snow covers their natural source of food supply, and we learn from Mr. Ellsworth Hemm of the Gravois Kiwanis Club that on December 23rd they obtained four planes from the St. Charles Air Port to drop 700 pounds of seed packed in 10 pound paper sacks over the snow covered ground in four areas around Boschertown, Mo. Boy Scouts acted as ground crew to pack the sacks.



Observations



Wanted: data for a Composite List: In order to complete plans for a composite list of birds seen in the St. Louis Area during 1945 we need aid from our bird observers. Please send your list to James Earl Comfort, 27 N. Iola Drive, Webster Groves 19.

On October 14th Roberta Foote, Hattie Ettinger, Frances Pickel and Earl Comfort reported a red-breasted nuthatch seen at Grafton, Ill.

Late in October the crows told Earl Comfort that there was an owl near the Broadway entrance to Bellefontaine Cemetery. Investigation proved it to be a barn owl. On December another barn owl was discovered at Lake Park, Ill. Waldemar Palm discovered it and called attention to a group of eleven birders. This owl, one of the dark phase, was perched in a low tree permitting very close inspection. In fact, since the owl refused to leave it was finally left still in its "frozen" pose.

During November Hattie Ettinger and others found a large flock of Brewer's blackbirds in St. Charles County near Boscher-ton.

James Jackson, reporting from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., finds Bonaparte's gulls very common over Lake Michigan, and saw one horned grebe at close range.

In November Robert Knickmeyer reports seeing 50 or 60 hooded mergansers and one horned grebe near St. Louis.

On December 15th Beulah Bedell and a group of observers saw three bald eagles at Pere Marquette Park, Ill., and on the same day saw several Lapland longspurs near Weber Lake in St. Charles County.

A surprise letter was received from Jack Stupp, youthful birder who left here several years ago, recalling memories of birding at Marais Temps Clair and the other marshes. He is now Capt. John P. Stupp, stationed at Yokohama, Japan and comments on the scarcity of bird life on the islands of Japan as compared to Leyte, Minandoa and Luzon of the Philippines, where birds are very numerous.

J. E. C.

COMMENTS

William N. (Bill) Kelley deserves thanks and a great deal of credit for the splendid way he took over as editor when Don Menke donned a wartime uniform. He served for two years but his work now takes him out of the city frequently and he feels that it will interfere with giving the Bulletin proper attention.

Back from the Front: Arthur Christ, James F. Comfort, Lloyd Freer, George Onk, Richard P. Grossenheimer, William Holzman, Jr., J. Emerson Finney, Ralph Sunderman, Lt. Joseph E. Vollmar and Lt. Col. John Wolfe. We extend to them a hearty "Welcome Home".

Congratulations to Julian Neill and Ruth A. Lienesch who were married recently. Both of them are members of the St. Louis Bird Club.

Friends of Miss Tillie Hollman will be pleased to know that after residing for several years at Portland, Maine, she has returned to St. Louis again for keeps. A nature lover, good birder and friend, it is a pleasure to welcome her back home.

Miss Helen Espanier, the good natured one, has taken over the chairmanship of the Door Committee.

The recently organized Jefferson City Audubon Society has elected two of our popular birders and ex St. Louisans, James W. Cunningham, president and Iva Leonard Jackson, vice president, a combination hard to beat, and that Society will be doing things in a big way soon.

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Who's Who?



Life Member. Mr. G. A. Buder of St. Louis is the latest addition to our life membership list.

We extend a warm welcome to the following members who have been recorded for the 1945-46 Season as our bulletin goes to press: Dr. Ferdinand Bartel, Mrs. R. Battenberg, Daniel Beck, A. Jack Becker, Mrs. A. Jack Becker, Mrs. Edward Beecher, Adelaide Boefer, Valentine Bokermann, Hazel H. Bowles, Mrs. E. Brandenburger, David Brass, Mrs. Wm. E. Brass, Sue V. Bremser, Wm. J. Bremser, Jr., Nettie Brinker, Dr. Erich Brockelmann, Mrs. A. E. Brooker, Mrs. Eugene R. Brown, Mrs. Warren C. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Burmeister, George W. Cameron, Mrs. T. E. Catlin, Mrs. Berthoud Clifford, Elisabeth Collier, Rex Conyers, Minnie T. Cook, Mary E. Coughlan, Dorothy Covich, Natalie David, Gladys Dickey, Mrs. A. H. Diehr, Fred Dreher, Elma L. Drewes, Charles P. Duncker, H. M. Duphorne, Mrs. H. M. Duphorne, Mrs. Willa Ehrig, Olga Enzinger, Flavia Ernst, Elbert W. Fanter, Mrs. Elbert Fanter, Benedict Farrar, Mrs. Benedict Farrar, Mrs. H. Fischer, Mrs. Charles A. Fitz-Gerald, Margaret L. Flynn, Mrs. H. D. Ford, O. R. Forsman, Claude H. Foulk, Walter Foulk, Donald Fraser, Mrs. Irene Frick, Mrs. Margaret Frissell, Mrs. O. W. Gaebler, Helen Galchik, Albert Gartiser, Marge Gartiser, L. Wm. Gerling, V. T. Gilliam, K. H. Godfrey, A. J. Gummersheimer, Mrs. A. J. Gummersheimer, Wallace C. Gundlach, John N. Haacke, Edith Hallberg, Mrs. Marie Ham, William C. Ham, Emily Hanisch, Mrs. Corida Hanna, Mrs. Lewis S. Haslam, John P. Hathaway, Florence Have-land, Mrs. W. J. Hedley, Mrs. Anna Heina, Charlotte Heina, Wm. A. Hemmen, Grace Henderson, J. K. Hermann, Mrs. J. K. Her-mann, Ruth Heron, James A. Herrick, Edith M. Hewitt, Dr. Hill, Robert Hill, Dora L. Hintz, A. C. Hofsommer, Mrs. A. C. Hofsommer, Myrtle Holthaus, Mrs. Wm. I. Holzmark, Mrs. Margaret Horther, Adele Huhn, Judge Rubey M. Hulen, Mrs. F. A. Hunter, Sr., Joan Hunter, Ella Johannes, Mrs. B. H. Johnson, Mary Elizabeth Jones, Mrs. Robert McKittrick Jones, II, M. Kallmeyer, Kenneth Kamper, Marybelle Kimball, Mrs. E. Lina Klein-schmidt, Dorothea Knecht, Frank Kramer, Doris May Kramer, William J. Kroger, Jr.,

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